

# Second Peter

Bible Commentary 2021

by

Mike Kines

## Chapter 1

### 1:1-3

Peter made it clear that with the Lord we have everything we need which pertains to life and godliness. All we need comes through our knowledge of the Lord Jesus who called us to glory and virtue. Some may think this only applies to salvation, but I think it goes beyond what is spiritual. The most important thing, of course, is salvation and eternal life. However, I believe the Lord also cares for our current situation and meets us right where we are every day.

He gives us everything which pertains to life and godliness. The Lord is our provider and he gives us everything we need.

Another promise from the Lord is **Matthew 6:33**. These "other things" are the material and physical resources needed to live in this present world. The Lord not only takes care for our spirit but also for the body. Paul taught in his letters the Lord is for the body as well as the spirit.

Our need is met through our knowledge of the Lord Jesus. When a man walks with the Lord he has everything. He can rest as he seeks the Lord that all his needs are met. Our work is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ whom God the Father sent into this world. This is our work: to believe in Jesus and to seek him daily.

As we rely on Jesus we experience his work in our lives. Faith comes first; then experience. Experience comes as the Holy Spirit applies the work of Jesus to our life. What was and is true of the Lord Jesus is also real in our daily life. This becomes apparent as the world recognizes who you are and treats you like they treated the Lord Jesus. Read also **Psalms 37:25, Psalm 34:10**.

We can trust the Lord Jesus. He is our help and provider. The Lord is our protector. Cast all of your cares upon him because he cares for you.

### 1:4

After I was saved by the Lord Jesus one of the first things I did was study the Bible. I was given a Bible verse to memorize which still comes to mind on a regular basis: **Philippians 4:13**. I learned when I felt

weak or tempted I could recall scripture and it helped me stand firm. Quoting scripture out loud helped me to maintain momentum in serving the Lord and completing tasks he put in front of me.

The Lord gave us many promises in the Bible which can be used to help us draw closer to God and resist temptation.

When battling temptation there are two verses which come to mind. These help me remember basic principles. The first principle is that God does not tempt me to do evil, but my own flesh leads me into temptation. The second principle is that there is no temptation I face which other Christians have not also faced. These principles are seen in the following scripture verses: **James 1:13-15, 1 Corinthians 10:13.**

How do these scriptures help? Let's take **James 1:13-15**. It is important to take personal responsibility. If we cannot take personal responsibility there is little hope we can overcome these problems.

By memorizing scripture and incorporating the meaning into my thinking I learn to take personal responsibility. I take ownership and do not shift the blame onto others.

The reason I see that some cannot break out of sin is because they shift the blame onto parents, society, or the government. They do not blame themselves for their sins. Having this attitude increases suffering in life. It does not help anyone overcome sin.

The answer is to take ownership and have faith we can overcome with the Lord's power. **Philippians 4:13.**

With the Lord's help I can overcome. But if I never take ownership of my sin then there is little chance I will receive help from the Lord. The Lord only deals with someone who is willing to take responsibility. We must humble ourselves and take ownership. Only by learning this attitude can we grow to become a mature Christian.

**First Corinthians 10:13** teaches us the principle that we are not alone. People are defeated by thinking they are alone. They are defeated by thinking their situation is so different that God is not able to help them. They think their sin is something God never helped anyone overcome before.

Whatever sin a person has committed God has seen it before. Jesus still loves us and he is willing to help us overcome if we will humble ourselves. Confess every sin to God. Turn away from sin.

Sometimes one may have to make a decision every hour to overcome sin. The Lord can help if we turn to him. God promises to make a way of escape from sin. If we turn to God during temptation we can find that way of escape.

As we read the Bible underline passages and record them. Record them and listen to it repeatedly. Let the word into your heart, mind, and spirit. When the scripture is needed we can rely on the Holy Spirit to bring it to memory to help overcome sin.

## 1:5-7

A man is saved by faith alone in Christ alone. This work is God's grace. Even after salvation we can only hope to continue to grow by faith and God's grace. These scriptures do not contradict this doctrine but show us there is a part we take in cooperating with the Holy Spirit in this process. The work is God's but we must agree with God and cooperate with the Holy Spirit. We humble ourselves and receive God's word into our hearts and allow circumstances to conform us into the image of God's Son.

This is a process of adding to faith. These are qualities of the Lord Jesus and a growing Christian puts on these qualities. We need to understand God does not want us to remain spiritual babes but grow in our knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Beholding the Lamb of God we become like him day after day.

The problem with this process is we become distracted by a million things as we go forward. At every turn the enemy attempts to make us bitter, resentful, covetous, proud, impatient. We are constantly bombarded from within and without by temptations to get angry when God disciplines us. We are tempted to slack off in the fight of faith. We are tempted to lower our shield of faith for awhile. We think we deserve to take a break. The thought comes, "Haven't I worked enough already? Haven't I done a good job lately persevering? I deserve a rest, a break." These thoughts are deadly, because there is only forward or backward momentum in the spiritual life. A man cannot sit still and let life pass him by. If you rest you will go backwards.

We must wake up and cry out to the Lord to help us go forward and not backward. We must grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. We must be ready for God to bring circumstances which will challenge us to put on these qualities. The bottom line is we need to be willing to die to self and grow in the Lord Jesus.

The goal is love. The old English word "charity" means love. God's goal is a life of love. We are to love others as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. We love and lay down our life for others.

## 1:8

Paul compared the qualities of a believer to fruit (**Galatians 5:22-23**). No doubt these word pictures originated with the Lord Jesus who spoke of fruit, vines, and bearing fruit in **John chapter 15**.

When a farmer plants a fruit tree it is with the purpose of bearing fruit. There is an understanding it takes time for a tree to mature to bear fruit. However, if the tree is defective and for some reason does not absorb nutrients, water, and whatever it needs to grow and thrive, then even if it bears fruit the result will not be good.

The Lord is a faithful gardener of his vineyard. He constantly puts us in circumstances which will remove hindrances if we cooperate. This is key. We must understand the heavenly Father is in control of every detail in our lives and glorify God in every circumstance. We need communion each day in the word, in prayer, in fellowship, in serving, in worshiping. We need these to grow but notice the list Peter made does not touch on those actions. He speaks of adding to faith the qualities of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in what he brings so we can be conformed to the Lord Jesus.

God desires for us that we bear fruit. We are free moral agents just like our grandparents Adam and Eve. If we want to we can also refuse to obey and will be unable to produce spiritual fruit. This can happen to the Christian after believing in Christ. Without getting into divisive doctrines, let me say: Jesus is a real person and so are we. We are secure as long as we listen to his voice and continue to live in agreement with him. This begins with salvation and continues as long as we continue to listen, believe, cooperate, and agree. God gave us the ability to agree or disagree. We must choose to agree with God even when it means standing against ourselves.

Our lives will bear fruit for the Lord when we agree with him. Eventually there will be a hard word the Lord speaks to us; a word which will test us. God's word tests us; yes it will! Don't think God will not test your willingness to submit to and obey him. He will allow you to be tested and try your faith so you will know that you love him.

When our goal is to grow in faith we will be fruitful in the Lord Jesus. However, if we stop growing then spiritual life dries up. People sense the change quickly. This is especially true of those who were passionate about God's will. When they stop obeying the Lord it is in contrast to their former attitude and it is noticeable to others.

Believe in the Lord Jesus. This is the only work God gave us. Believe in the Son of God who was sent into the world. Our work is to believe in the Lord Jesus. As we believe he prunes us and makes us grow. As we cooperate with the Holy Spirit he adds to our faith.

## 1:9

Here we see the consequences when a man does not add to his faith. Not only does he become unfruitful but he loses his discernment. He becomes nearsighted and then blind. This process removes discernment and promotes memory loss. He forgets what Jesus did for him. He forgets when God saved him.

We don't start out intentionally to forget. We forget because we neglect to grow in the Lord. The only way a man can grow is to put into practice God's word. There is no day of vacation or rest. Not only do we maintain the basic discipline of prayer, bible study, service, worship, fellowship but we must add to our faith these qualities. As a reminder: add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love.

How do we grow in these qualities? By denying ourselves and taking up our cross and by following Jesus. We must keep our eyes on Jesus who is the author and the finisher of our faith. Take your eyes off Jesus and you sink beneath the waves like Peter.

The Holy Spirit builds these qualities into our life as we believe in Jesus. We cooperate with the Holy Spirit. As we humble ourselves, repent, confess, and obey the Lord we are conformed into the image and likeness of the Lord Jesus.

I've seen men who once put their trust in Jesus neglect to add to their faith. I've seen men who preached God's word but did not practice it. They were callous to their wives and took them for granted. They

took God's blessings for granted. Ministry became a business. Slowly they become ashamed of their testimony. They let go of what God did for them.

It was only a matter of time before they lost their discernment and were reckless again. I've seen this pattern in men I cared a lot about. They forget. They get blind. It happens just like Peter described it right here in this letter.

What should I pray? Lord Jesus, help me to remember. Help me to remember everything you did for me. Help me remember every time you spoke to me and corrected me. Help me remember every time you corrected me and comforted me. Help me remember God's love and mercy. Help me remember the Bible verses I memorized so long ago. Help me to apply your word to my life. Don't let me go astray, oh God most high, oh God who performs all things for me. Help me walk the narrow path and enter the straight gate.

## **1:10-11**

When I was young I was afraid I would return to the life I had before I was a Christian. These verses taught me how to overcome this fear: grow spiritually everyday. These verses summarize what Peter taught in the preceding verses. He taught us to make our calling and election sure.

How do we do this? By growing in the Lord. We grow by adding to our faith. We add to our faith the attributes of Christ.

How is this accomplished? By steadfastly holding to our faith in the Lord Jesus everyday. These comments do not contradict the fact that we are secure in our salvation in Jesus.

However, if we stop believing in Jesus then nothing is secure; we are lost. Only by looking to Jesus Christ the author and the finisher of our faith do we receive eternal life. Eternal life is in Jesus Christ. In him we have life. If we stop looking to Jesus we do not have life. If we trust in philosophy, religion, doctrines, programs, or systems then we do not have eternal life. Only Jesus can give eternal life, because he is eternal life.

Remember that everything we need in this life is only found in the Lord Jesus. No amount of good works can make us grow spiritually. Spiritual life is a result of abiding in Christ Jesus the Lord. We grow as we abide in the Lord Jesus and submit to his word. He has a word for us everyday. Just like Israel went out and picked up manna everyday in order to stay alive physically God has a word for us everyday to keep us alive spiritually. We must remember this. Life is in the Lord Jesus. If we are not hearing God's word then we are dying spiritually. Spiritual death is separation from God.

Peter instructed us to make our calling and election sure. Being called and elected is God's grace. Making the calling and election sure is something we do in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. What do we do? We believe in Jesus Christ the Son of God. We believe everyday. No matter what happens to us or what circumstance we are in we see the hand of God in everything. We know God is working to conform us to the image of his Son Jesus Christ. This is our purpose: to glorify God by reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is an "if" promise. "If" we make our calling and election sure then we will never fall. Is it possible to fall? Paul mentioned those who fell from grace in the book of Galatians. There are men who once believed but turned away and went back to the world. Were they saved? They were when they believed but when they stopped believing in Jesus and so they were no longer saved. Only those who believe Jesus is the Son of God have eternal life. If we do not want to fall away from Christ we must make our calling and election sure. Making our calling and election sure means we must grow spiritually. We must add to our faith. We must add virtue, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love. We must grow in the character of the Lord Jesus. This growth comes from the Holy Spirit who lives in us, and we must yield, we must submit, we must receive the grafted word of God which saves us. We must not rebel or stop believing in Jesus.

As we grow in Jesus we receive a rich welcome into the kingdom of the Lord Jesus. I pray when I depart this body I will be in the process of putting on the Lord Jesus Christ more everyday. I want to be growing in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

## 1:12-15

Peter repeated the word "remembrance" throughout these verses. He said he would not neglect to put them in remembrance of the things they were established in and knew as the truth. He said as long as he was alive he would keep stirring up their memory of the truth. Also, even after he passed, he wanted to make sure they would still remember what he taught them about Jesus.

Remembering is an important part of the Christian life. We know the gospel today but we have to remember it everyday or we might forget. It is possible to go days and not think about the Lord Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection. It is possible to forget what our lives are built on, which is the foundation of the Lord Jesus.

We need brethren to stir us up to proclaim the gospel. Especially now when the end is close and the Lord's return is near we need to stir up the memory of the Lord Jesus. He purchased us with his blood. He rose from the dead. He ascended to heaven. He will return to receive us to himself that where he is we may be also.

Peter was not the only one who taught us to stir up our memory. Paul emphasized this to Timothy. He told Timothy to remember. We should remind others of the gospel. It is our duty to remind ourselves of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Remind our brothers of the same. The body of Christ needs Christians to remember who they are in Christ Jesus.

Remember the Lord. Don't forget what the Lord did for us. Don't forget what he did in our lives. Remember he forgave our sins. Continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. We don't want to retrace our steps or backslide. We want to go forward with the Lord.

## 1:16-21

Peter offered proof for the gospel. He began with his eyewitness account of the Lord Jesus. He remembered the transfiguration of the Lord Jesus on the mountain when Elijah and Moses appeared. Peter was not the only one who witnessed this event. James and John were there. Peter remembered the voice of the heavenly Father speaking and the exact words which he spoke: *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

I believe when someone hears the voice of God he remembers the exact words God spoke. This happened to me twice in my life so far. This happened on August 4 and August 8, 2014. I will never forget hearing God's voice and the exact words he said. It absolutely changed me to hear God's voice.

I heard the Lord say to himself, "*Consider this one.*"

Then he said to me: "*Mike, can you believe I am speaking to you?*"

"Yes, Lord, I believe you speak to me, " I replied.

Then he filled me with the Holy Spirit and I prophesied about God three in one.

He also said to me on August 8: "*Hidden manna.*" There were also words he spoke which I heard but were not directed at me.

The first thing I heard God say on August 4, 2014 was: "*Consider this one.*"

And then on August 8, 2014 he said: "*He will receive, but he does not understand.*"

This encounter with God absolutely changed me and confirmed God's calling on my life. I'm doing my best now to obey God's calling.

Peter heard the voice of the Father. Yet he said that there is a more sure word which we can stand on than experiences with God. He pointed us to the Bible. God's word is settled in heaven. His word will never change. God's word also is where the gospel is preached and we can stand on the Holy Bible for faith and salvation.

Another proof Peter pointed to is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit used holy men to write the scriptures. The Holy Spirit is a witness to us of the gospel and the reality of the present greatness of Christ Jesus. Amen.

## Chapter 2

### 2:1

Peter warned about false prophets. The fact Peter warned the church is proof enough there are tares among the wheat. There are people who are sent by the devil to lead others astray.

One way they accomplish this is by preaching a compromised gospel. They preach about money. Their message is based on greed and a love of the world. Their message is the opposite of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. False prophets preach man-centered and self-centered doctrine. A true prophet points men to Jesus and promotes Jesus. The true gospel is about denying self and lifting up Jesus. The false gospel exalts men and focuses on success in the world system.



The Lord Jesus warned people about covetousness and taught us to seek God's kingdom and his righteousness. False prophets teach people to live the good life now and to be successful in this world system. The world system is based on idolatry and covetousness. Those who preach this message in the church are the false prophets Peter warned about.

False prophets teach a message of freedom but they are slaves to lust and sin. They are slaves of sin and self and yet they teach to others a message of freedom. It is a false freedom.

Jesus warned about false brothers, Jude wrote an entire letter on this subject, Paul warned about them, and Peter also warned against false prophets and false teachers.

Because gullible people follow false teachers the way of truth (the gospel and the church) is evil spoken of. I could clip out newspaper articles that demonstrate this. How much has the world blasphemed God as a result of men like this? There are too many to even list. People are turned away from believing in God and mock the church because of false teachers. I remember as a child I had relatives who regularly mocked preachers because of their carnival like behavior and claims of supernatural power.

I think we can see this in action in the American church. Society mocks the church because of prosperity charlatans. Every once in a while I'll see something in the news about one of these men asking for millions of dollars to buy an airplane, and I am reminded of these scriptures. The unbelievers blaspheme God because of these fake preachers. Just recently I saw an article in a major newspaper about one buying another private airplane and the secular reporters are shocked that so-called Christian preachers can justify their flaunted wealth.

Christians need to come out of this foolishness. We need to recognize these false preachers and have nothing to do with them. We need to let our hearts be settled by the eternal message of God's grace and not participate with fake brethren. By their fruits you can know them. Once you recognize them then don't listen to them anymore. Don't debate or argue. Just get away from them. (Proverbs 14:7).

Peter exposed the certainty of false teachers. They introduce a false gospel which separates men from the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Their message causes men to deny the Lord just like Judas when he betrayed Christ. They bring swift destruction on themselves. Those who teach heresy destroy lives and destroy their own soul in the process.

Throughout Paul's letters we see Paul defended the gospel against false teachers.

In Galatians he defended the gospel against false teachers whose message was for Christians to obey religious laws. They wanted to turn Christians into Hebrew Christians or Jewish Christians. There is a movement in the church today which promotes this false gospel. It destroys faith in the true gospel of grace.

Paul defended his personal ministry on many occasions against false teachers who attacked or lied about him.

Nothing has changed. False teachers still secretly bring in heresies. What makes these false teachers so dangerous today is the easy access to social media which they can use to broadcast heresy on the



internet. The internet is full of poison which pretends to be Christian doctrine. It's better to get our doctrine from the Bible and on our knees before the Lord in prayer. The Lord is able to teach us his word and keep us on the right path. Pray for the Lord to give you ears to hear his voice and a heart to obey when he speaks to you.

Jesus said you can know false teachers by their fruits.

In my experience, here's a list of bad fruit I've seen:

Men who promote their own name. These men plaster their name all over church signs, newsletters, business cards, and ministry materials. They want people to know their name. They want to build a ministry which lifts up their name. Their mission is to get as many people to come under their name as they can find. They operate exactly like the world. There is no difference between these men and corporate America.

Men who teach a message laced with covetousness. People who constantly teach their listeners how to get rich or that God wants them to get rich. They ask you to invest your money into their ministry and God will reward you. Their message is a ponzi scheme but instead of selling trinkets they peddle a false gospel. Run away from these charlatans as fast as you can.

Men who organize ministry into a systematic hierarchy with themselves at the top. This is a more subtle form of using the world system style of government and business in the church. Instead of using their name they are clever enough to come up with a name for their ministry. The more successful ones will recruit and multiply groups to come under their umbrella and attempt to deny they have a hierarchical system by calling themselves a "fellowship". Another name for this is "denominations". Many in their ranks join this system as a career move to make a living or to have a religious career.

Men whose theology is so systematic there is no room left for the reality of the Lord Jesus. If the Lord Jesus walked into their church they would not accept him unless he submitted to their bylaws and church rules.

You might think these examples do not really point to false teachers. I insist these people are teaching a false gospel and are false teachers. Any man who lifts himself up above his brethren by giving himself a position or title is by his own example teaching a false gospel. Even if his doctrine is correct his example is false: it is not the example of the Lord Jesus and therefore instills within their followers a false spiritual pride. I had one of these ministers tell me one time that his followers were the "Green Beret" of the church. They were the "Special Forces" in God's Army at that ministry.

There are a lot more signs which warn a man about a false teacher or ministry.

Look around at what they have on the walls of their office. Is their office covered with degrees and titles? This shows how worldly and filled with pride they are. I walked into a ministry one time and they had a New Age yin yang symbol taped to the wall of their office. Sometimes it doesn't take a whole lot of discernment to figure out who the false teachers and ministries are.

So why do we keep attending the churches of these false teachers? Probably a lot of it has to do with force of routine. We are simply too lazy to go find someplace else to go to church.

Some men who attend these churches know the pastor is crazy or is teaching crazy messages but they still attend the church and by doing so support that Pastor.

They might think that by staying they can do some good. A man has to follow the Holy Spirit and listen to his conscience on this.

However, let's remember that God commanded us in his word to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather expose them. (**Ephesians 5:11**). The Bible teaches us not to be unequally yoked together with unbelievers (**2 Corinthians 6:14**), and really false teachers are unbelievers. They do not believe the true gospel and by promoting their false gospel they deny the Lord Jesus. (**Proverbs 14:7**).

## 2:2

Definition of "**pernicious**": *causing great harm or damage often in a way that is not easily seen or noticed.*

"Pernicious" is how Peter describes the false teachers. They accomplish great harm or damage in a way that is not easily seen or noticed. Why does the church not notice false teachers?

As a result of false teachers the way of truth gets a bad reputation and is evil spoken of. People blaspheme God, the church, and the gospel because of false teachers. They revile the church because the unbelieving man is not stupid. Sometimes the unbeliever is quicker than Christians at spotting wolves and false teachers.

Perhaps the church does not notice false teachers because they do good works. I spoke with a missionary one time who truly loved God but was burned out because churches did not support his work. However, a famous prosperity preacher did support his work. As a result, this missionary overlooked the heresy because of the help in supporting missions. This is the pernicious way of false teachers. They do good works with one hand and in the other they insert doctrines of devils into the church.

Another reason churches overlook false teachers is a twisted view of grace. I don't know of anyone who preached more on God's grace than Paul. But I can think of two places where Paul talked about putting people out of the church or turning people over to Satan. This was the apostle of grace who rebuked, corrected, and exhorted with all long suffering and doctrine. However, the teaching of grace is abused in our day of apostasy. It is much easier to talk of forgiving wolves in the church than it is to drive them out.

When false teachers are not confronted it gives a pastor a bad reputation. The pastor is considered a coward and the church is looked upon as compromising. The world does not stick around for this. They have enough problems surviving Monday through Friday. Why come to church on Sunday and deal with this drama?

Be vigilant to expose false brethren. We must be faithful in this work. If we do not do this we don't love the church. We are held accountable for the good we fail to do because we are cowards.

## 2:3

How do false teachers make merchandise of Christians? How do they use covetousness and feigned words to make merchandise of Christians?

The key to understanding this is defining covetousness. Through their teaching they instill covetousness into people. They inflame this desire in people for money and power. Covetousness can be applied to many things but in context we are looking at money because Peter said they make merchandise of Christians.

Making merchandise of something is to convert something or person into a commodity that can be bought and sold. These people turn Christians into currency. They make false promises. This is the feigned words. They are liars and their message is a lie but somehow they wrap up this covetous lying message into Christian words which deceive people. The result of this deception is that the Christians are turned into a commodity. They are sold lies and they pay for those lies with seed faith gifts to the false teachers' ministry.

This kind of activity is rampant through the American church, and probably around the world as well.

This deception has been around since Peter's time. These false teachers were taking advantage of Christian fellowships back as far as the early church. May the Lord open our eyes and give us the discernment to avoid these people.

## 2:4-9

When the Lord deals with his children in judgment it is for correction to make them better. When God deals with the wicked it is for punishment; there is nothing redemptive in God's punishment of the wicked. He simply gives them what they deserve.

Peter provided examples from Bible history of God's judgment on the wicked. The first example began before man. He pointed to the angels who sinned against God and followed Satan. These angels were cast out of heaven and down to hell. They were delivered into chains of darkness and now wait final judgment when hell and the wicked are cast into the lake of fire.

The next example Peter gave was God's judgment on the entire world during the time of Noah. The Lord judged the world with a flood which wiped out mankind except for Noah and his family.

After this, another example was God's judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah. People tried to twist the story of God's judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah to make it sound like God was not actually judging the sin of homosexuality. But that is exactly what that judgment was about. God rained down fire and brimstone on the sodomites.

The wicked think that because God delays his punishment that God does not see what they do. However, the Bible says the eyes of the Lord are everywhere, watching the good and the evil. **Proverbs 15:3**, "*The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*"

Hell is punishment. There is a day coming of God's wrath and judgment against the wicked. Read **2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Revelation 21:8**. You can escape this awful fate by turning to God in repentance, putting your complete faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation, and by calling on the name of the Lord. Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins, he was buried, and he rose again on the third day. He is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God by him for he lives to make intercession for us. He is returning again to this earth and will receive us to himself that where he is we may be also.

## 2:10-11

In **1 and 2 Peter** we see one of the basic principles of the Christian life is an attitude of humility. Peter taught humility in the family, workplace, and toward government. Even when those authorities are harsh Peter exhorted us to an attitude of humility. He said it is better to suffer for well doing. False teachers have the exact opposite attitude toward authority.

False teachers despise government. They have an attitude of rebellion against authority. I've noticed in preachers who do not submit to elders or brethren that sooner or later you hear them criticizing leaders in their denomination or getting heavily into politics. This is an attitude of self will and presumption. It is presumptuous because we do not trust God with people over us. We can appeal to the Lord on behalf of people in authority which is exactly what Paul commanded in **1 Timothy 2:1-4**.

When men in ministry no longer respect those in authority you can rest assured there is something wrong. They are transformed into false teachers if they are not already. A true God sent man is a man of humility.

One example I can think of in modern times is Watchman Nee. He knew he would be betrayed and arrested. Nevertheless he submitted himself to his brethren. They turned him over to the authorities. As a result Watchman Nee died in a prison camp as a martyr for Christ. He was one of the greatest bible teachers of the twentieth century.

Let's remember to live a quiet life and mind our own business. It is not our place to assume we know better than those in authority. Let us focus on being a good witness for Jesus and sharing the gospel at every opportunity.

## 2:12-14

Here Peter described what he called "cursed children". Here was a list of the qualities in these cursed children: (1) Act like animals, (2) Speak evil, (3) Like to party no matter what time of day, (4) They have no problem intermingling with church people and attending social functions with Christians, (5) They seduce weak Christians, (6) They are covetous. That is quite a descriptive list. It shouldn't be too hard to discern these people in church, but most Christians I've met are not able or willing to see these people for what they are. Why?

One reason is bad teaching on God's love and grace and forgiveness. God is love but love only benefits those who repent of their sins and put their faith in the Lord Jesus. The Bible makes it clear God's wrath abides on those who do not obey the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. God put on a curse on mankind when Adam and Eve fell in the Garden of Eve. It is the curse of death and death is working in our bodies. The law of sin and death corrupts us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. There is no hope of escaping this curse unless a man humbles himself, confesses that God is true and

right, and puts his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Jesus died on the cross he took this curse on himself so we could be delivered from all curses.

The Lord stretches out his hands to us today. All we have to do is humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, turn away from self, and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Then we will no longer be under God's curse but we can abide under the blessing and grace of the Lord.

## 2:21-22

There is nothing more heart breaking than to know someone who was once a brother in Christ and turned back to the world. When I first became a Christian I lived in a residential program for men with life controlling problems. If a man in that program went back to the world it meant they turned away from the Lord but it also meant they went back to drug and alcohol addiction. There were some men who loved getting high more than they loved Jesus.

Don't be like a dog who goes back to its vomit. Don't be a pig that goes back to wallowing in the mud again. These verses spoke straight to my heart. The Lord showed me he could change me. Every day of obedience was another day of change and another day of change was more distance between the new me and the old. I needed to put as much distance as possible between the old and the new.

It is interesting this verse says it would be better to never have known the way of righteousness than to know it and turn from it. Before I went into this program a youth pastor told me, "Don't leave. Don't even think about it. If you leave you will become so bitter you will never turn back to the Lord probably." Those words had a huge impact on me putting one foot in front of the next and never looking back.

Why is it better to never know the truth? Because you always remember. You never again enjoy getting high. Your conscience smites you and makes you miserable. There is never any rest to the man who knows the truth and does not live by it. This man can no longer enjoy the pleasure of sin. It is sand in his mouth even though he may keep stuffing his mouth full of dirt.

Another reason it is better not to know the truth is because if you turn away you become a much harder man. You overcompensate with filling your mind with entertainment, lies, addictions, anything to drown your conscience. As a result a man ends up in a much bigger mess than before.

I saw this happen. After I finished the program I worked as staff for several years. I saw what happened to men who came to the program, left the program, and came back again. They were always in worse shape the second time.

It is better after you know the way of righteousness just to keep walking the straight and narrow. Don't turn back. Don't retrace your steps. Make the commitment to the Lord and do not compromise. You cannot live in two worlds at the same time. You can not serve God and serve yourself at the same time. Make up your mind to deny self, take up your cross, put your hand to the plow, and never look back.

## Chapter 3

### 3:1-2

Peter echoed Paul's admonition in 2 Timothy. Paul exhorted Timothy to stir up the gift of God within him and to keep that good thing which was given to him. Peter exhorted Christians to stir up their pure minds and remember.

There is a lot in these letters about remembering. A big part of the Christian life is remembering the truth, the facts, and what the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished for us. We remember the simplicity of the gospel: Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners. He died on the cross for our sins. He was buried in a tomb. He rose from the dead on the third day. These events were witnessed by his disciples. Jesus ascended back to the Father after he rose from the dead. He is now at the right hand of the heavenly Father and lives forever making intercession for us. He will return to the earth at some point in future history. These are not fanciful ideas but are facts stated plainly in the Bible.

Knowing the gospel and abiding in the truth sets us free from self, sin, the world system, and the devil. Christ provides forgiveness of sins and also deliverance from sin, self, the world, and the devil. God the Father placed us in Christ and we abide by faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Peter gave us the purpose for his second letter. He wanted to remind us of the words of the holy prophets, the commandments of the apostles including Peter himself. From this we see the Old and New Testament are vital in understanding the complete salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.

What does "pure minds" mean? Perhaps this parallels what Jesus said to Peter when he washed Peter's feet. He said he was clean through the word spoken to him. He only needed his feet washed. We also received eternal life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We also need to stir up our pure minds. Our minds have been purified by the truth and by the washing of water of God's word. But we need to remember the word. We need to meditate on the word day by day.

Like the disciples needed only to wash their feet we also need to be washed daily in the water of God's word. We need to remember the gospel. Let's never let go of the facts. The facts provide the foundation, the walls, and the roof for our lives. If we let go of the facts will lose our purpose in life. We need to remember the facts in God's word.

Let's remember what the prophets and apostles of the Lord preached to us through the written word of God. We have the testimony of God in scripture. This testimony is that Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to God except through the Son of God Jesus Christ.

### 3:3-7

A scoffer is an outspoken unbeliever. They are beyond apathy and aggressive in their antagonism of those who believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

One sign of the last days is scoffers who mock the return of Jesus Christ. This sign is evident today in America. America went from a country of religion to antagonism against religious faith. Some catalysts

of these changes were technology, media, and perversion. In the mix there was drug addiction and idolatry. Underlying it all is the love of money and the lust for power.

The Lord Jesus announced he would return. The apostles preached the return of the Lord Jesus. This is a basic doctrine in the church. From the beginning the church taught that one day Jesus Christ would return to earth. Read **Acts 1:11, John 14:3**.

In the past when God judged the earth he flooded the planet. Everything drowned on the planet except for those in Noah's ark. This is the judgment Peter referred to in these verses. However, the next worldwide judgment will not be water. The next judgment will be with fire.

Scripture confirms this future judgment by fire. Read **Revelation 20:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9**. Eventually scoffers are cast into a lake of fire. This takes place at the great white throne judgment of God. Read **Revelation 20:9-15; Revelation 21:8**.

Jesus Christ came into this world to save sinners. He died on the cross so men would not suffer for eternity in the lake of fire. He bore our punishment on himself when he died on the cross. He was buried, and on third day he rose from the dead. We do not need to live in sin. We can turn away from our sin and put our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We can receive eternal life in the name of Jesus. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved. Call on the name of the Lord Jesus. Do not leave this life without finding the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

### 3:8-9

Men assume since God's judgment is not immediate that God never judges sin. This explains why men become bold in their sin. Men today glorify sin and boast of perversion, and the world applauds their perversion. However, God is patient. He is long suffering towards evil people because it is God's will for them to repent and put their faith in Jesus. Some will repent and some will find Jesus.

God does not measure time as we do. Peter mentioned the phrase "*a thousand years as a day*". God sees time from eternity. We cannot attain this reference point. We cannot imagine anything that does not have a beginning and an end to it.

It should be underlined in the Bible the phrase "not willing that any should perish", because I have heard well-meaning Christians say that Christ did not die on the cross for everyone but only for a select group of people. It is true that in eternity there is an elect group of people who God foreknew from the foundation of the world that would be saved. However, this also does not cancel out the fact that God's will is for no one to perish. It is God's will for all men to come to repentance. How can this be the character of God and then we come up with a systematic theology which claims Christ only died for some people? Christ Jesus came into this world to save sinners which includes every man, woman, and child who ever lived or who will ever live.

We have an opportunity to repent and put our faith in Jesus and be saved. Let us take advantage of the time we have. This is the day the Lord has made. We are not promised we will reach tomorrow.



### 3:10-13

Peter described a future event in which the entire universe is melted down. He says the "elements shall melt", and I don't think one can get more basic than the elements. When the elements melt there is nothing left except what is not made from elements.

We should meditate on our lives and ask the question: "what manner of persons ought ye to be?" In view of the future fiery meltdown how should I live? This is a good question to ask and I can think of few events which would put me in such a serious frame of mind. Not even one's own death is as serious as the meltdown of the universe.

All that makes it through the fire are souls of men and God. The souls of men are eternal. A man's soul will either spend eternity with God or be eternally separated from God but men's souls continue somewhere forever. Man is made in the image of God and part of being made in God's image is to have a soul which endures forever.

After the fire dissolves the universe God creates a new heavens and a new earth where only righteousness lives.

This furnace is part of what the bible teaches about the "day of the Lord". There is a lot more involved in the day of the Lord than just the end. We also know the millennial reign of Christ on earth after the second coming is part of the "day of the Lord" as well. The fire Peter described here takes place after the great white throne of God's judgment. You can read about this at the end of **Revelation 20** and the beginning of **Revelation 21**.

Peter described the attitude of a Christian as anticipating eagerly the end of the universe. Indeed, I believe Spirit filled Christians look forward to a new heavens and new earth where only righteousness lives. Our heart desires freedom from sin and this world system.

Since there is an end to the universe how should I live? I do not want to live invested only in what is temporary. I don't want to be obsessed with the details of life. It is important to live with an eternal perspective. I ask myself when I am stressed out: who will care in a hundred years? Who will remember this in a hundred years? There is nothing so important it will even be remembered a few years after I am dead. Why am I obsessed with my own importance? It is better to realize the time I spent in this body is brief in light of eternity.

Instead of preparing to live a short life on earth young people should prepare themselves to live for eternity. We should learn when we are young to invest ourselves in activities which will mean something ten thousand years from now. What has meaning that far into the future? The souls of men! And studying God's word. Studying God's word, memorizing, meditating, and applying God's word to everyday life. When we do this we invest in an eternal future and not just in the temporary time in this body.

I remembered life's brevity recently when I received news a family member passed away. She was in her nineties but if someone asked her if ninety years was a long time she would have said it all went by quickly. Life is brief.

Remember to seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness. Remember to invest in what really matters. Give yourself wholeheartedly to following God's will every day.

### 3:14-16

The question arises when I read this: am I without spot and blameless? Did the blood of Jesus Christ remove my sins and make me white as snow?

The answer to this question is "YES", a resounding "YES", the blood of Jesus Christ removes all of our sins and our transgressions. We have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

So why does Peter admonish believers to be without spot and blameless when the Lord returns? Since we know the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ saved us I assume Peter spoke about something which causes us blame and spots.

What causes a believer to get spots and be blamed? Turning away from believing Jesus. They become enamored with the gods of the pagan world. The Holy Spirit drove this home to me. Believers can be seduced by religious spirits to become fascinated with other gods. No one in their right mind would purposely turn away from Christ. But it is possible for Christians to mix in other gods and religions. This was the downfall of King Solomon in the Bible.

It is easy be enamored with the beauty of world religions. How can Christianity be the only religion which is true when people all over the world have faith? These non-Christian people are wonderful people. Christianity can appear dull and boring next to some of these religions, philosophies and belief systems. Religious spirits are seductive to Christians who are not rooted in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Throughout **2 Peter** we see how many times Peter warned of false teachers. Paul also made it a large part of his ministry to warn people of false teachers and doctrines. Throughout the history of Israel we see Israel continually seduced by religions of the nations surrounding them.

People who are not sound in the gospel are called unlearned and unstable by Peter. Peter said these believers twist Scripture to their own destruction. I've seen this in my own experience with people who knew just enough of the Bible to inoculate themselves against the truth of Jesus Christ. To many people who say they are a Christian the Lord Jesus becomes only an idea or a philosophy.

He is not. He is a real person. He is a man who walked on earth and a man who will return to earth again. He will reign as King over all nations. He died on a cross, he was buried, and he rose again from the dead on the third day.

All other religions are counterfeits. Satan plants tares of false religion throughout history. We can be overwhelmed by the many people who never heard the gospel. We are tempted to think God is unjust in allowing these people to go into an eternity of punishment when they never even heard of Jesus.

However, who are we to question God? God is just. The massive numbers of unsaved humanity descending into the abyss without Christ Jesus does not cancel out the exclusive claims of Christ himself: He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the only way to the Father. No one can come to God except through Jesus Christ. No one.

If we are heart broken about those people who never heard the gospel perhaps God is calling us to be a missionary to those people? Perhaps we are heart broken because God is heart broken, and he shows us these people who do not know Christ for a reason. How shall they hear unless someone preaches to them? How can they preach unless they are sent? Perhaps God is sending you to these unreached people to share the gospel with them.

But take the time to learn the gospel. Take the time to make sure your faith is rooted, grounded and unmoved from Christ and him alone.

We want to appear before Christ without spot and blameless. The only way to do this is to remain in Christ, to abide in God's word, and to let God's truth cleanse us everyday. Brother and sister, stay in prayer, and stay in the Word.

### **3:17-18**

In these closing comments Peter exhorted us not to be led away with the error of the wicked and fall from our steadfastness. Why was Peter determined to warn Christians to not fall away?

When is the last time you heard a Pastor preach about the possibility of Christians falling away from their faith in Christ? I think this is overlooked because it does not fit in with the airtight, man-made systems denominations use to control people.

Peter reminded us that faith is not static. Faith is power which God puts into man and it is fluid. It is constantly on the move. If faith is not disciplined to remain focused on Christ alone it will wander the world looking for worthless objects to rest on. Men automatically love creation more than the Creator the moment they take their eyes off Jesus.

This wavering of men can be seen around us. People are fickle in their faith. Their lust for experiences far exceeds the desire to simply deny self and believe the gospel. The gospel is too simple for man's pride. We want something more beautiful, exciting, or exotic.

Peter appealed to us not to fall away from a steadfast faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He exhorted us to continue to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. Jesus is all we need for life and godliness.

Let us return to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don't lose out with God over a temporary high or pleasure. Return to the Lord Jesus with all your heart, emotions, mind, and all your love. Do not forsake your first love in Jesus but return again to Jesus.

Jesus waits for us. He never leaves us and he never forsakes us. He waits with arms outstretched and his eyes are filled with compassion.

Let us bow our heads and our hearts before him.

Oh Lord, have mercy upon us and help us. Help us return to you again. Revive us, oh God, and let your fire burn in us. Deliver us from idols and every false god. Deliver us from the seductive world system

we are in. Help us, open our eyes, so we can see with your eyes. Help us, oh Lord Jesus and give us ears to hear Your Spirit speaking deep in our spirit again. In Jesus name.

Mike Kines  
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